

Message Text

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LIMDIS POLICY

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SUBJECT: AGRICULTURAL POLICY DISCUSSIONS IN HIGH LEVEL
OECD RESTRICTIVE GROUP

1. WE PROBED OECD AGRICULTURE DIRECTOR SIMANTOV'S IDEAS ON THE OCTOBER 12 INFORMAL HIGH LEVEL AGRICULTURAL POLICY MEETING IN RELATION TO CURRENT DEVELOPMENTS AND THE OUTLOOK FOR AGRICULTURE.

2. THE SHORT-TERM OUTLOOK FOR AGRICULTURAL SUPPLIES WAS DISMAL AND WORSENING HE SAID. HE THOUGHT AGRICULTURAL POLICY MAKERS NEXT SATURDAY WOULD HAVE TO DISCUSS THE MEASURES EACH OF THEM WOULD TAKE AND PERHAPS MORE IMPORTANTLY WOULD NOT TAKE. IN THE LATTER CATEGORY SIMANTOV, (SPEAKING ON OCTOBER 3) RANKED PROMINENTLY A JOINT DETERMINATION NOT TO LET SOVIET PURCHASES CONTRIBUTE TO FURTHER DETERIORATION.

3. FOR THE OECD COUNTRIES THE DETERIORATING SUPPLY/ DEMAND SITUATION WAS ESSENTIALLY AN INFLATION PROBLEM AND GOVERNMENT POLICIES SHOULD BE AIMED AT AVOIDING FURTHER SPECULATIVE PERTURBATIONS. MORE SERIOUS WAS THE QUESTION OF THE AVAILABILITY OF FOOD FOR LDC. HE THOUGHT OECD GOVERNMENTS SHOULD TAKE STEPS TO MAXIMIZE

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WHEAT UTILIZATION FOR DIRECT HUMAN CONSUMPTION. WHEAT

FEEDING TO LIVESTOCK MIGHT HAVE TO BE DISCOURAGED BY PRICING MEASURES SO AS TO ASSURE ADEQUATE BREAD GRAIN SUPPLIES TO POORER COUNTRIES.

4. WHILE SIMANTOV BELIEVES SHORT-TERM EMERGENCY S/HOULD BE HANDLED BY CONTINUING INTENSIVE CONSULTATIONS SUCH AS THE FIVE POWER MEETING, HE BELIEVES IT IMPORTANT TO GET A BETTER GRIP ON LONGER TERM DEVELOPMENTS THROUGH A DISCUSSION OF FOOD RESERVES. AGRICULTURAL POLICY HE POINTS OUT IS INTIMATELY RELATED TO GENERAL ECONOMIC POLICY, IT IS NOT ONLY A TRADE PROBLEM BUT A PRODUCTION AND SOCIAL/ECONOMIC PROBLEM AS WELL. HE THINKS THE BIG FIVE WHICH MEET IN OECD WOULD BE AN IDEAL GROUP TO BEGIN DISCUSSING INFORMALLY THE OUTLINES OF A RESERVE POLICY FOR POSSIBLE LATER INCORPORATION IN THE TRADE NEGOTIATION. HE UNDERSTANDS THAT THE NATIONAL REPRESENTATION ON SUCH A GROUP WOULD HAVE TO BE DEEPENED TO PROVIDE A BROADER ECONOMIC POLICY AND TRADE POLICY PERSPECTIVE. WE DISCUSSED THE PROBLEMS INVOLVED IN DOING THIS WHILE MAINTAINING THE USEFULNESS OF THIS FORUM WHICH LIES IN ITS FRIENDLY INFORMALITY. THE PROBLEM MAY BE ESPECIALLY DIFFICULT FOR THE COMMISSION WITH ITS HIGHLY COMPARTMENTALIZED DIRECTORATES.

5. COMMENT: WE RECALL THE THINK/TANK IDEA FOR FUTURE AGRICULTURAL POLICY WHICH EMERGED FROM ORTOLI'S LUNCHEON WITH SECRETARY KISSINGER WHICH HAS NOT BEEN IMPLEMENTED DUE TO CIRCUMSTANCES WHICH INTERVENED. WE WONDER WHETHER IT MIGHT NOT BE TOO EARLY TO REVIVE THIS MORE INFORMAL APPROACH CONCENTRATING ON THE RESERVE ISSUES AND WHETHER A GROUPING OF THE FIVE MIGHT NOT BE A SUITABLE FRAMEWORK FOR SUCH DISCUSSIONS IN TANDEM WITH MORE INTENSIVE BILATERAL DISCUSSIONS WITH THE EC.
TURNER

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